

Dear Students and Families,

You are living through an **unprecedented** moment in history—**right now!** Today, tomorrow, and the days that follow will be captured in history books. Someday, you will share stories with your children and grandchildren about living through this time. Because these days are historical, it is critical that we not let these events pass without capturing how they affect you, your family, your school, and your community. **These online resources available to students during the closure are not intended to replicate in-school instruction, but rather are intended to keep students engaged as learners by maintaining or extending their learning.**

THE SHORT VERSION:

Daily Writing	Daily Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 written response per day<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lined paper (1 page) OR typed (½ page)○ <i>If typed, all responses can be on the same doc. Simply space them out and date.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read ANY BOOK for <u>20 min.</u> or more per day• Track on reading log (see ex. below)

THE DETAILS:

Daily reading: Find a book to read. **Any book that interests you.** Your choice. You are asked to read this book for **20 or more minutes** every school day (M-F). You are asked to time your reading every day, and to track the time you spend reading on a self-made chart. The chart you create can be hand-written or created digitally, and it might look like this example:

Date	Book	Pages	Time Spent Reading
3/23	The Hate U Give	22-40	25 min.
3/24	The Hate U Give	40-55	20 min.
3/25	The Hate U Give	56-75	30 min.

NOTE: If you do not have a book, you can get one online for free on one of these apps:

<https://freevideolectures.com/blog/top-free-ebook-apps/> (ask a teacher for help if needed!)

Daily writing: You will be asked to write **5 responses (MONDAY-FRIDAY)** 1 page (or more) a day **on lined paper** OR on a **Google doc** (~½ page single spaced if typed), capturing your thoughts, questions, comments, and concerns about the events that are unfolding. I want you to capture this history—your history—any way you'd like. Below are some suggestions for your daily writing. Feel free to generate your own ideas as well.

Some possibilities for daily writing:

- Capture how this virus has disrupted your school year—including sporting events, concerts, field trips, dances.

- Discuss how your daily life has been disrupted.
- Share the effect it has had on your friends and family.
- As we go into more social isolation, you might write reviews of movies, television shows, podcasts, video games to share with your classmates. **A discussion board has been added to our Google Classroom.**
- Respond to any **seed** about the crisis you find interesting. A **seed** is something that makes you start thinking more deeply about a topic. A “seed” can be an article, a broadcast, a Tedtalk, a tweet, a photograph, a podcast, a film, an Instagram (or another online) post, a TikTok video, a political cartoon—anything that makes you think about the crisis. You are encouraged to find your own seeds—whatever you think is worth writing about—but if you have trouble getting started, you might want to respond to one or more of the following seeds:
 - **Two Women Fell Sick, One Survived:** [Two Women Fell Sick From the Coronavirus. One Survived.](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/03/11/magazine/best-songs.html?action=click&module=moreIn&pgtype=Article%C2%AElon=Footer&action=click&module=M%20oreInSection&pgtype=Article%C2%AElon=Footer&contentCollecton=The%20New%20York%20Times%20Magazine#tylerthecreator)
 - **25 songs that matter now:** <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/03/11/magazine/best-songs.html?action=click&module=moreIn&pgtype=Article%C2%AElon=Footer&action=click&module=M%20oreInSection&pgtype=Article%C2%AElon=Footer&contentCollecton=The%20New%20York%20Times%20Magazine#tylerthecreator>
 - **Political cartoons: Corona News** <https://www.cagle.com/bob-englehart/2020/03/corona-news>
 - **A soccer team is trapped:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/sports/soccer/wuhan-coronavirus-spain-soccer.html?action=click&module=Editors%20Picks&pgtype=Homepage>
 - **Who will pay the salary of stadium workers?** [Pelicans Star Zion Williamson Pledges to Pay the Salaries for Staffers of the Smoothie King Center](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/sports/soccer/wuhan-coronavirus-spain-soccer.html?action=click&module=Editors%20Picks&pgtype=Homepage)
 - **Student sent home for profiting on the selling of hand sanitizer:** https://www.huffpost.com/entry/hand-sanitizer-school-suspension_n_5e6b071ec5b6dda30fc642ef
 - **Creating a coronavirus songlist: Rita Wilson Crowdsource Coronavirus 'Quarantunes' Playlist From Her Fans** [Rita Wilson Crowdsource Coronavirus 'Quarantunes' Playlist From Her Fans](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/sports/soccer/wuhan-coronavirus-spain-soccer.html?action=click&module=Editors%20Picks&pgtype=Homepage)
 - **Podcast on the Coronavirus: Ologies “Virology (COVID-19) with Dr. Shannon Bennet + various ologists”** [Virology \(COVID-19\) with Dr. Shannon Bennet + various ologists](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/sports/soccer/wuhan-coronavirus-spain-soccer.html?action=click&module=Editors%20Picks&pgtype=Homepage)
 - **Researchers are using a World of Warcraft scenario to understand COVID-19's spread: PCGamer article.** [The researchers who once studied WoW's Corrupted Blood plague are now fighting the coronavirus](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/sports/soccer/wuhan-coronavirus-spain-soccer.html?action=click&module=Editors%20Picks&pgtype=Homepage)
 - **The power of social distancing:** <https://www.horsesforsources.com/storage/app/media/2020/social%20distancing.png?fbclid=IwAR1dlnfTlkI408TJzbCEXvfY1dzntEl8whsehVGJwG3LZeDK2zn7G55jgY0>
 - **Here are the workers most at risk:** <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/03/15/business/economy/coronavirusworker-risk.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>

- **Lots of good info here:** <https://www.nytimes.com/news-event/coronavirus>
- **A look at coronavirus through comics:**
<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus>
- **Is paper money safe?** [Fear of coronavirus-tainted dollars opens a new front in the war on cash](#)
- **How can we stop the curve of infection?**: [Why outbreaks like coronavirus spread exponentially, and how to “flatten the curve”](#)

These are here if you need help getting started. As the crisis unfolds, you will be able to easily find new seeds that encourage reflection. This story changes every day. Do not depend on the teacher to do your thinking for you. Find seeds worthy of writing and thinking about.

Be creative. Write across genres: poetry, dialogue (just capture a conversation between people), description: zoom in on a moment you experience; discuss songs that capture these events for you; find and respond to charts and graphs worth thinking about. Or perhaps you'd like to make a scrapbook. If so, here are some samples to spur your thinking:

- <https://www.creativelive.com/blog/scrapbook-ideas-for-beginners/>
- <https://www.pinterest.com/simonsaysstamp/scrapbook-layouts/>

Here is another site that shows ways of keeping interesting notebooks:

- <http://www.sharingournotebooks.amylv.com/>

You might also want to look at how other people in history captured historical events. Here, for example, is a look at the notebooks of Anne Frank, which have been read by millions of people:
<https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/diary/complete-works-anne-frank/>

Again, be creative as you decide how best to capture your thinking. What is the best way to write about this historical moment? You decide. Be creative!

Your daily writing will not be graded. So take risks. Be honest. Try to create writing that you will be interested in re-reading years from now. Chart your thinking as we navigate these uncertain days/weeks.

Everything can be done either handwritten or on a Google doc.

Stay safe by being home as much as you can as well as consistently washing your hands.

We miss you!

MBA English Department

(Questions? Contact Ms. Regan: cregan@mbacs.org or 856-441-5996)